



Searching for Metadata

The purpose of this exercise is to have participants explore metadata records that are catalogued in clearinghouses. It will also help them get used to using key words and will begin to help them see that key words need to be precisely written so that users can more accurately find what they're looking for.

Have participants use an online search engine to find two different metadata records for each of the following topics. Then have them write the entire title under the word. Ask them to note how different the types of records are that they found. How could they have narrowed the search to find those particular records? What other key words would they recommend using for those records? Note that the sample answers given here are just a few of the possibilities.

It is possible that participants might experience some difficulty in accessing clearinghouses to do this exercise. If your online attempts are unsuccessful, be prepared to do a shortened version of the exercise. You could give them the titles that are shown here and ask them the same types of questions that you would have if they had found them themselves.

☐ Transportation

Title 1: Louisiana Highway System from LDOTD source data, Geographic NAD83, LOSCO (1999) [rdcgeog3dlldot]

Other key words: Infrastructure, highways, interstates, route, LDOTD

Title 2: 'Infrastructure' Feature Extract of Louisiana Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) Points from USGS source data, Geographic NAD83, LOSCO (1999) [namgeog3dxinf]

Other key words: Infrastructure, geographic feature, feature name, place name, bridge, building, crossing, mine, oilfield, tower, trail, tunnel

Title 3: Public Use Airport Runways in Louisiana from BTS source data, Geographic NAD83, LOSCO (1998) [arugeog3dlbts]

Other key words: Infrastructure, airport, runway, helipad, Louisiana

Title 4: Digitized Landuse by County (geodata.state.ne.us/fgdc)

Other key words: landuse, landuse description, Nebraska, Adams, Boone, Box Butte, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota

Title 5: Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission's 1:24,000-Scale 1997 Interstate Centerline File

Other key words: interstates, tollway, expressway, interstate centerline, Illinois Department of Transportation, Northeastern Illinois



Title 6: Active and Abandoned Railroads in Illinois by County

Other key words: railroads, Illinois

Title 7: NBId0136_101:Kenya Coastal Zone - Mining, Towns, Industry, Utilities

Other key words: airfield, airstrip, building blocks, ferry crossing, limestone, railway stations, shops, stores, towns, Africa, East Africa, Kenya

Title 8: NBId0150_101: Roads and Rivers of Africa's Transportation Network, 1991

Other key words: motorable road, paved road, track, trail, Africa, Cameroon, Central Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, West Africa, Zaire

Title 9: Sensitivity of Shoreline Habitats and Wildlife to Spilled Oil: St. Johns River, Florida

Other key words: Sensitivity maps; ESI; lacustrine and riverine resources; oil spill planning; and coastal zone management, Florida, St. John's River

Title 10: Seismotectonic maps in the vicinity of the lower Wabash Valley, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky - Digital Spatial Database: Railroad digital line graph

Other key words: railroads, Wabash Valley

□ **Hydrology**

Title 1: 1988 Gulf of Mexico Coastal Louisiana Habitat Data as Raster Image, UTM 15 NAD83, NWRC (1999) [nwiHab88]

Other key words: basins, bays, bayous, canals, floodplain, wetlands, marshes, swamps, marshlands, habitats, uplands, vegetation types, land cover types, landform types, coast, Louisiana Coast, Gulf of Mexico, South Louisiana, Mississippi River

Title 2: 1:2,000,000-Scale Hydrologic Unit Boundaries

Other key words: hydrologic unit boundaries, hydrologic unit codes, drainage basins, cataloging units, hydrologic units, watersheds

Title 3: Upper Mississippi/Missouri River Basin Hydrologic Units (1:250,000)

Other key words: hydrologic units

- Title 4: Upper Mississippi/Missouri River Basin Lakes: 1:2,000,000
Other key words: digital line graph, DLG, quadrangle, Coverage, ARC/INFO, Fuzzy Tolerance, Arc, attribute, ARCPLOT, INFO, Topology, cartographic, FIPS, ArcUSA, Lake, water, scale 1:2,000,000
- Title 5: Powder River Basin 100k Hydrology (Prb100hyd.shp)
Other key words: hydrography, lakes, streams
- Title 6: Seismotectonic maps in the vicinity of the lower Wabash Valley, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky - Digital Spatial Database: Selected hydrology
Other key words: hydrography, lakes, streams, Wabash Valley, rivers and lakes
- Title 7: 100k hydrology of the Tongue River Reservoir (Dk100ktng.shp).
Other key words: National Coal Assessment Rocky Mountain and Northern Great Plains Region, Hydrology, Decker, Reservoir, Montana, Tongue River Reservoir, Decker coal area, Big Horn County, County, Powder River County
- Title 8: Major Bedrock Aquifers Within 300 Feet of Ground Surface
Other key words: Geology, aquifer, major aquifer, water, hydrology, hydrogeology, bedrock
- Title 9: MSU0040:Washita Watershed Data Set
Other key words: agriculture and food security, climate, elevations, land and fresh water resources, rainfall, river basins, water flow, watersheds, weather
- Title 10: Satellite Surface Radiation Budgets for Basin and Global Scale Hydrologic Studies
Other key words: agriculture and food security, global change, land and fresh water resources, new radiation, satellite data, semiarid rangelands, subhumid regions, surface temperature

□ Flood

Title 1: Astronomical High Tide Line for Louisiana, Geographic NAD83, NWRC (1999) [hightide]

Other key words: Tides, NASA aerial photography, aerial photography, tide line, coast, coastal, geographic information system data, classified aerial photography, maps, mapping, geophysical, Louisiana, Louisiana Coast, Gulf of Mexico, South Louisiana, Mississippi River

Title 2: Oil and Gas Well Locations, Current Record Version 04/07/1999, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation [wepgeog3dxdnr]

Other key words: Infrastructure, Socio-Economic, gas well, oil well, wellhead, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, oil industry, Louisiana

Title 3: Coastal Use Permits from LDNR source data, Louisiana, Geographic NAD83, LOSCO, (2000) [pergeog3dxcup]

Other key words: Permit, dredging, backfilling, habitat, pipeline, well, mitigation, navigational aid, boathouse, boat ramp, erosion control, marina, levee, park, seismic, cattwalk, pumping station, spoil disposal, mosquito control, shipyard, sewer, butterfly net platform, oil spill, shipyard

Title 4: Flood Problem Areas Inventory of Lake County, Illinois (1995)

Other key words: flooding, mitigation, stormwater, watershed, hazard, Lake County, Illinois

Title 5: One-Hundred and Five-Hundred Year Floodzones for Unincorporated Areas in Illinois by County

Other key words: floodzones, floodplain, Illinois

Title 6: Streams and Shorelines in Illinois by County

Other key words: stream, lake, hydrology, hydrography, river, Illinois

Title 7: CANEMRCCRSFLOODRISK: Flood Risk Maps for Areas, Villages and River Systems in Atlantic Canada

Other key words: flood risk, hydrogeology, ice jams, Canada, North America

Title 8: OREG_CLIM_FLOOD_96:Case Studies of the Oregon Floods of February and November 1996

Other key words: United States, Oregon

Title 9: usgs_brd_cerc_d_postflood: Determination of Bioavailable Contaminants in the Lower Missouri River Following the Flood of 1993.

Other key words: contaminants, Iowa, Herman, Lower Missouri River, organochlorine pesticides, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, United States, the Grand River, the Gasconnade River

Title 10: FA00810:River Forecasts Provided by the National Weather Service for the U.S. (1872-1980)

Other key words: annual data, climatology, river stage, surface, polar, equatorial, mid-latitude, North America

❑ **Orthoimagery**

Title 1: ERS-1 Image 259009

Other key words: earth science, atmosphere, atmospheric phenomena, storms, earth science, biosphere, vegetation, vegetation cover, cryosphere, snow/ice, glaciers, human dimensions, environmental effects, oil spill, hydrosphere, surface water , rivers/streams, wetlands, land surface, topography , landforms, terrain elevation, oceans, bathymetry, water depth, ocean circulation, eddies, ocean currents, ocean waves, significant wave height, swells, ocean winds, sea surface height, radiance or imagery, microwave, microwave imagery, radar , radar imagery AMI C-BAND SATELLITES ERS-1 FRONTS

Title 2: ERS-1 Image 259007

Other key words: earth science, atmosphere, atmospheric phenomena, storms, earth science, biosphere, vegetation, vegetation cover, cryosphere, snow/ice, glaciers, contaminants, environmental effects, oil spill, hydrosphere, surface water , rivers/streams, wetlands, land surface, topography , landforms, terrain elevation, oceans, bathymetry, water depth, ocean circulation, eddies, ocean currents, ocean waves, significant wave height, swells, ocean winds, sea surface height, radiance or imagery, microwave, microwave imagery, radar , radar imagery AMI C-BAND SATELLITES ERS-1 FRONTS

Title 3: Canada_SaniIn_OrthoimageToronto:High Resolution (50 centimetre) orthoimagery for Toronto

Other key words: aerial photography, orthorectified imagery

Title 4: TNRIS_BRET_CD:Hurricane Bret Special Edition Version 1.0 CD and On-Line

Other key words: Hurricane Bret

□ **Digital elevation models**

Title 1: Alaska 1km Digital Elevation Model

Other key words: DEM, DTM, elevation, relief, landforms

Title 2: Topography.e00 (geodata.state.ne.us/fgdc)

Other key words: Topography, elevation, Nebraska

Title 3: Slopes in Illinois

Other key words: geology, slope, superficial, topography, morphology, Illinois

Title 4: CNIG-SPAIN: Digital Elevation Models, Cartographic Bases and Boundary Regions of Spain-National Center of Geographical Information (CNIG), Spain

Other key words: boundary regions, cartographic bases, DEM, DGN, Europe, Spain

Title 5: NSIDC-0082:Radarsat Antarctic Mapping Project Digital Elevation Model

Other key words: aircraft, altimetry, Antarctic, cartography, contours, cryosphere, DEM, GIS error detection, Antarctica, polar, glaciers, ice sheets, landforms, mapping, hydrosphere, ice sheet elevation, radar altimetry, ramp, relief, satellite radar data, terrain elevation, topographic maps, topography

Title 6: ISTAR_DEM: Digital Elevation Models derived from areal photography and SPOT Imagery, ISTAR (Imagerie STereo Appliquee au Relief)

Other key words: global, commercial, DEM, grid, spot, surface model, terrain

Title 7: Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database for Jackson County, Wisconsin

Other key words: soil survey, soils, Soil Survey Geographic, SSURGO

Title 8: Tax Parcels for Brown County, Wisconsin

Other key words: tax parcels, parcel identification

Title 9: Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of Minnesota: statewide 1:24,000-scale raster

Other key words: Digital Elevation Model, DEM, Digital Terrain Model, DTM, Topography, Hypsography, Altitude, Height

Title 10: Public Land Survey System (PLSS) control points for Brown County, Wisconsin

Other key words: coordinate